

## REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge that claims 18-34, 37 and 38 are allowed and the Examiner's Statements of Reasons for Allowance. Consequently, Applicants have canceled rejected claims 1-11, 13-17 and 35-36. Applicants respectfully submit that cancellation of the rejected claims should not be considered as acquiescence to any grounds of rejection.

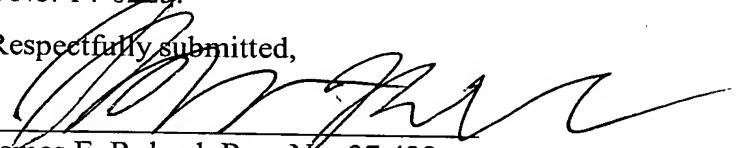
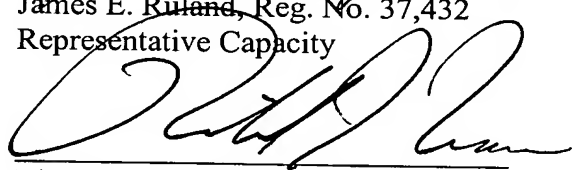
In addition, Applicants have removed underlining from claims 18 and 38 inadvertently left in these claims from previous amendments.

Moreover, Applicants do not wish to be bound by the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance, but respectfully submit that the claims are allowable at least for features added by the Reply filed 09 July 2003.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration is courteously requested. If there are any remaining issues which can be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone counsel at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0225.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Attorney Docket No.: 9678.00/NCRCO-101X

Date: May 11, 2004

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